

places were erected 25 to 30 years ago, and were tumbling down. The present bill provided for the appointment of a commission to survey the ground and reorganize the school sections. If the people concurred in that report new

school houses would be erected, but in a more extended area. Since the present bill had been published settlers on the mainland had asked to have the same principle adopted in their districts. If the House vouchsafed the power he would be glad to extend the system wherever practicable.

The second reading was agreed to.

Evening Session.

After recess the consideration of public bills was proceeded with.

Mr. Crawford moved the second reading of the bill to regulate overcrowding of street cars.

Hon. Mr. Hardy raised the point of order that the bill, which had been introduced as a public bill, was in reality a private bill, inasmuch as it affected private legislation passed by this House confirming an agreement between the railway company and the city, and the terms of which it altered, and applied only to Toronto.

Mr. Speaker intimated that when the bill was introduced his first impressions were that it was a public measure, but in view of the objections which had been raised, he would reserve his decision.

Ballot in Municipal Councils.

Mr. Pattullo in moving the second reading of the bill to prohibit voting by ballot in municipal Councils urged that there is a marked difference between the private citizen in the elections and the public representative in his public capacity. There was no difference of opinion on either side of the House as to the right of private citizens to vote by ballot, but it was a very different thing when representatives of the people were acting in their public capacity. The people had the right to know how their representatives voted in every case. The use of the ballot in such cases was not in accordance with the principle of responsible government. The use of the ballot in the City of Toronto in the election of the Board of Control had given rise to a great deal of discussion, and was an illustration of the fact that the ballot was not desirable under the circumstances.

Mr. Graham (Brockville) and Mr. Little (Cardwell) supported the bill.

Mr. Matheson did not altogether agree with the bill, and suggested that the ballot be used in the election of a presiding officer.

Mr. Whitney, replying to the contention that public representatives should have backbone enough to vote as they thought right under the open vote, argued that it was quite possible instances would occur where the representative would not have courage enough to vote as his judgment dictated under the open vote.

The bill was read a second time.

Second Readings.

The following bills were given second readings:—

To amend the municipal act—Mr. Macnish.

Respecting cemetery companies—Mr. Marter.

Respecting sureties—Mr. Foy.

To amend the municipal act—Mr. Foy.

To amend the municipal act—Mr. Richardson.

To amend the municipal act—Mr. Graham.

Smallpox Outbreak.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

On the vote of \$7,800 for the Provincial Board of Health, Mr. Matheson inquired whether there had been any recent developments in connection with the smallpox outbreak.

Hon. Mr. Davis replied that he was pleased to say that the outbreak was now under control.

Inspector Noxon Criticized.

On reaching the estimates for public institutions Mr. Matheson attacked the liberality which had been extended to Inspector James Noxon by the Government. He said that in 1897 the inspector was absent from his duties here for a long period acting as penitentiary commissioner. For that work he was paid about \$1,700 by the Dominion, but nevertheless also received the greater part of his salary from the Provincial Government.

Hon. Mr. Davis said the whole matter was explained in 1898. It was true that Mr. Noxon was absent on Dominion business, but on that account two months' stipend was withheld from him. Mr. Noxon had not taken any holidays up to the time he was asked to assist in the penitentiary investigation, and he devoted his vacation to that work. A large part of the Dominion remuneration he earned during his spare time. Mr. Davis from his own knowledge could say that Mr. Noxon did sufficient work for the Province to entitle him to a whole year's vacation, and in any event he was a most efficient and painstaking officer.

After some discussion the vote passed.

Revenue Bill Tuesday.

The committee rose and reported progress, and on the motion to adjourn Hon. Mr. Hardy, in reply to Mr. Whitney, announced that the House would consider the revenue resolutions on Tuesday.

Mr. Whitney suggested whether Thursday would not be better.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said that for certain special reasons the Government preferred Tuesday. He took advantage of the opportunity to read a letter from the Mayor of Toronto inviting the members of the Legislature to visit the new municipal buildings at some date convenient to the House. The Mayor's letter contained a postscript stating that luncheon would be provided.

The House adjourned at 11 p.m.

Bills Introduced.

Among the bills introduced to-day were the following:—To prevent the growth of barberry shrub—Mr. Little.

To authorize the Corporation of the City of Ottawa to raise a further sum of money upon the security of Lansdowne Park—Mr. Lumsden.

To incorporate the Natural Gas Company of Ontario—Mr. Pardee.